(d) what is Government's response to the Rajasthan Government's request?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) On the offer made by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) for supply of additional 0.2 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of natural gas for 10 years from October, 2002 based on the projected availability indicated by Oil India Limited (OIL) and the existing allocation of 0.75 MMSCMDS of natural gas to Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) from Dandewala, Tanot and Gamnewala fields of OIL/ ONGC for the Ramgarh Thermal Power Project, M/s Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL) has requested for additional supply of 0.6 MMSCMD of natural gas from April, 2002 for expansion of its Ramgarh Thermal Power Station, Stage-II and operation of additional gas/steam turbines in the project.

(c) Presently, GAIL is supplying natural gas at an average of 0.47 MMSCMD to RSEB for Ramgarh Thermal Power Project against the contracted quantity of 0.55 MMSCMD of the existing allocation of 0.75 MMSCMD.

(d) GAIL is exploring the possibility for supplying re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through its pipeline network from LNG terminal of petronet LNG Limited at Dahej (Gujarat) to various States in Northern India including Rajasthan. The import LNG at Dahej terminal is to commenced in December, 2003.

Reconstitution of dealers in Delhi

3199. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps/LPG distributorships which are being run in Delhi under the benami transactions;

(b) whether attempts are being made by oil corporations' officers to regularise them by way of reconstituting these dealerships; and

(c) by what time proper action shall be initiated against the officers found responsible for this illegal Act?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) From time to time, the oil companies comes across cases of retail outlets/LPG distributorships suspected to be involved in benami operations. Such cases are investigated and action is taken against such dealerships in accordance with the dealership agreement.

Oil Marketing Companies have terminated 5 LPG distributors in Delhi which were found to be operated against the provisions of the distributorship agreement.

Pricing Policy of IBP

3200. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IBP has decided to follow an independent pricing policy, different from those of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, to what extent Government have accepted the IBP's request for following independence in pricing policy; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial for the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Reaction of LPG marketeers over LPG subsidy

3201. SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private LPG marketeers have threatened to quit following Government's inability to implement policy regarding withdrawal of subsidy on LPG; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?